

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 031923 Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8732

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 2311

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, BR

SUBJECT: CNBB LEADER CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF ANDERSON

ARTICLE

REF: STATE 119207

1. A HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE INFORMED POLOFF THAT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BRAZILIAN BISHOPS' S (CNBB) SECRETARY GENERAL, DOM IVO LORSCHETTER, WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER REPERCUSSIONS ANDERSON ARTICLE " POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN BRAZIL" OF JUNE 17 MAY CAUSE BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE GOB.

2. APPARENTLY HAVING RECEIVED COPY OF ARTICLE FROM FOREIGN SOURCES SINCE NO REFERENCE MADE TO STORY IN BRAZILIAN PRESS, DOM IVO SAID THAT HE WAS UNAWARE ANY DOCUMENT ON POLITICAL OPPRESSION BY A " SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE" WAS PRESENTED TO THE CNBB CONFERENCE IN SAO PAULO LAST FEBRUARY. HE FURTHERMORE SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THAT SUCH A DOCUMENT HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED EVEN INFORMALLY. HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF " COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS OF BRAZIL," SUPPOSEDLY LED BY GROUP OF PRIESTS.

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3. DOM IVO HAS BEGUN AN IN- HOUSE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF THE GROUP EXISTS, AND WHO MAKES UP ITS MEMBERSHIP.

4. WHILE DOM IVO REPORTEDLY BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE CHURCH HAS THE RIGHT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDEMN INJUSTICES, INCLUDING TORTURE AND VIOLENCE WROUGHT AGAINST MAN BY THE GOB OR ANY OTHER INSTITUTION, HE FEELS EQUIALLY STRONG THAT THE CHURCH MUST DIRECT ITS CRITICISM AT THE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE IN SUCH A WAY TO CAUSE THEM TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES AND TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION. THOUGH ADMITTING THAT THE CNBB'S INFORMAL LIAISON MECHANISM TO ALERT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF ABUSES AND INJUSTICES HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY EFFECTIVE IN MEETING THE PROBLEM, HE OPPOSES ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK THE REGIME FROM A FOREIGN PEDESTAL THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS.

5. HE MAINTAINS THAT SUCH EXTERNAL CAMPAIGNS ONLY COMPLICATE THE CHURCH' S ATTEMPT TO COMBAT THE EXCESSES OF THE MORE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS WITHIN THE REGIME.

6. DOM IVO IS CONCERNED THAT THE MENTION OF A PRIEST' S COMMITTEE IN ANDERSON ARTICLE MAY STRENGTHEN THOSE ELEMENTS DISPOSED TO ATTACK THE CHURCH AND LIMIT ITS PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL.

7. TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS, HE AND SEVERAL OTHER CATHOLIC LEADERS ARE PLANNING TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH GOVERNMENT CONTACTS NEXT WEEK TO REITERATE THE CHURCH' S POSITION ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN BRAZIL. THEY INTEND TO STATE THAT, WHILE THE CNBB CAN VERIFY MANY OF THE CASES TO WHICH THE ANDERSON ARTICLE REFERS AND FINDS THEM DEPLORABLE AND MORALLY reprehensible, IT DID NOT, NOR DOES IT PLAN TO, USE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO REGISTER ITS DISAPPROVAL OF THESE PRACTICES.

8. COMMENT: DOM IVO' S REACTION TO THE ANDERSON REVELATIONS IS NOT SURPRISING. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT WASHING BRAZIL' S DIRTY LAUNDRY ABROAD WILL GAIN ANYTHING  
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AND HAS LONG ADVOCATED A STRICT POLICY OF DELIVERING AT HOME -- EITHER PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY -- THE CHURCH' S CRITICISM OF THOSE GOB POLICIES IT FINDS UNACCEPTABLE.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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**TAGS:** PINS, SOCI, BR  
**To:** STATE INFO BRASILIA  
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